

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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R 181402Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7939
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CSCE, HU
SUBJECT: NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE ON CSCE AND DISSIDENCE

1. SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY ARTICLE IN NEPSZABADSAG FEBRUARY 18, FOREIGN EDITOR FERENC VARNAI SETS FORTH PARTY LINE ON FORTHCOMING CSCE MEETING IN BELGRADE AND PLACES DISSIDENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION IN CONTEXT OF BOURGEOIS EFFORTS DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL CAPITALIST PROBLEMS BY DISCREDITING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. VARNAI ASKS WHY CAPITALIST COUNTRIES WISH TO POISON ATMOSPHERE AGAINST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES PRIOR TO BELGRADE. HE ANSWERS: IN ORDER TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN DEEPENING ECONOMIC CRISES. HE POINTS OUT THAT "IMPERIALIST CLIQUES" ARE TRYING TO FALSELY PORTRAY SOVIET UNION AS HARBORING A LARGE SEGMENT OF SOCIETY WHICH IS DISSATISFIED WITH
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THE SOVIET SYSTEM. SIMILARLY THESE SAME VOICES CITE CHARTER 77 AS EVIDENCE OF AN OPPOSITION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THERE ARE INDEED SOME REMNANTS OF THE OLD SOCIAL SYSTEM IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, VARNAI WRITES, BUT IN POINT OF FACT THEY REPRESENT ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE, A FEW HUNDRED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SOME DOZENS IN POLAND AND SOME INDIVIDUALS IN HUNGARY AND THE SOVIET UNION.

3. IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, VARNAI CONTINUES, DEMOCRACY HAS ITS FORUMS. CITIZENS THERE ARE FREE TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS, INCLUDING TO POINTING OUT REAL OR IMAGINED MISTAKES. BUT THE STATE HAS A RIGHT TO RESORT TO SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE LEGAL ORDER, DISTORT REALITY, AND FUEL BOURGEOIS PROPAGANDA.

4. VARNAI THEN GOES ON TO DRAW BALANCE SHEET BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN TERMS OF PRINCIPLES OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT. IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE DEFENSIVE HUNGARIAN ATTITUDE THAT HE DISCUSSES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BAKET III QUESTIONS. HE NOTES FEWER SOCIALIST PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATE IN WEST THAN WESTERN PUBLICATIONS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE COMPLAINS WESTERN VALUES ARE ILLUSORY IN THE FACE OF MASS UNEMPLOYMENT. HE CITES U.S. FAILURE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ADOPTED AT THE UN 21ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS ATTRIBUTING IT TO UNWILLINGNESS ON PART OF USG TO ACCEPT "HUMAN RIGHT TO WORK". HE COMPARES VISA PRACTICES OF SEVERAL WESTERN STATES UNFAVORABLY WITH THOSE OF HUNGARY, IN U.S. CASE SPECIFICALLY CONTRASTING 40 QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED IN WRITING BY VISA APPLICANT -- INCLUDING WHETHER HE IS A PARTY MEMBER -- WITH ONLY 13 QUESTIONS ON HUNGARIAN VISA APPLICATION FORM.

5. VARNAI THEN SUGGESTS WHAT MUST BE DONE AT BELGRADE. TWO SIDES WHICH HAVE DIFFERING PLANS ABOUT TOMORROW OF MANKIND HAVE NEVER BEFORE HAD SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL PROGRAM. TALKS CAN ONLY BE FULFILLED THROUGH FAIR PLAY AND PATIENT COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PRACTICAL NORMS OF PARALLEL EXISTENCE MUST STILL BE WORKED OUT. THE DISCUSSANTS AT BELGRADE WILL THEREFORE NOT REVISE HELSINKI DOCUMENT NOR AMEND IT BUT WILL SEEK WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPLEMENT IT SUCCESSFULLY. MUTUAL REPROACHES ARE NOT NEEDED. BELGRADE SHOULD NOT SERVE AS A SMOKE SCREEN BEHIND WHICH SUPPORTERS OF COLD WAR COULD LAUNCH AN ATTACK AGAINST THE EASING OF TENSION. VARNAI STATES ALL PORTIONS OF FINAL ACT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED WHETHER THEY ARE LIKED OR DISLIKED BY ONE SIDE. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE GOING TO BELGRADE WITH THIS INTENTION. EVERYONE SHOULD GO WITH SUCH MOTIVATIONS AND EMOTIONS, HE CONCLUDES.

6. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE IN NEPSZABADSAG UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS OFFICIAL HUNGARIAN ATTITUDE AND SENSITIVITIES AS BELGRADE APPROACHES. GOH STILL MAINTAINING CON-

STRUCTIVE UPBEAT TONE WHILE STICKING TO STANDARD
COMMUNIST DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO WESTERN DEMANDS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASKET III IMPLEMENTATION. ARGUMENTS
USED BY VARNAI WILL BE THOSE WE MAY EXPECT TO HEAR IN
BELGRADE.
MUDD

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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